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09/743,863

01/17/2001

Miki Nagano

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08/06/2004

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EXAMINER

KIBLER, VIRGINIA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/743,863

Applicant(s)

NAGANO, MIKI

Examiner

Virginia M Kibler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment received on 5/20/04 has been entered. Claims 1-13 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fukunaga et al (6,088,037).

Regarding claim 1, Fukunaga et al. ("Fukunaga") discloses n image processing sections which receive n consecutive pixel data items that are respectively input with the same timing and which respectively process the respective input pixel data items with the same timing (Col. 6, lines 41-44; Figure 4; Col. 3, lines 48-56); and a control section that controls the n image processing sections (Col. 6, lines 56-61) wherein each of the image processing sections are capable of being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section, and a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section, one of the image processing sections is set to the first operation mode, and n-1 of the image processing sections are set to the second operation mode (Col. 14, lines 18-45); wherein commands are commonly given to the n image processing sections from the control section (Col.

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15, lines 14-21) and wherein when a command is given from the control section to one of the image processing sections that is set to the first operation mode, the n image processing sections individually execute the same processing with the same timing (Col. 14, lines 38-45).

Regarding claim 2, Fukunaga discloses the n image processing sections being allocated in the same address space in address spaces that can be controlled by the control section (Col. 6, lines 64-67, Col. 7, lines 1-9).

Regarding claims 3 and 6, Fukunaga discloses each of the image processing sections including a mode-setting terminal that sets one of the first operation mode and the second operation mode, and one of the operation modes being set according to a mode-setting signal input to the mode-setting terminal (Col. 3, lines 30-37; Col. 14, lines 18-45).

Regarding claims 4, 7, and 8, Fukunaga discloses a memory that stores image-processing data commonly used by the respective image processing sections (Col. 6, lines 41-47) wherein the image processing section set to the first operation mode can write the image-processing data which is fed from the control to the memory and in addition can read out the image-processing data written in the memory (Col. 6, lines 45-47; Col. 13, lines 64-67) wherein the image processing section set to the second operation mode can input the image-processing data read out by the image processing section set to the first operation mode from the memory (Col. 15, lines 14-21).

Regarding claims 5, 9, 10, and 11, Fukunaga discloses an image-displaying section that displays images represented by video signals output from the image-processing apparatus (Col. 5, lines 42-50 and 57-65).

Regarding claim 12, Fukunaga discloses a CPU data bus 1001, and the image processing section that is set to the first operation mode is permitted input access to the CPU data bus (Col. 14, lines 38-51). Fukunaga discloses a master/slave relationship, thereby it is inherent that the slave processors have reception only.

Regarding claim 13, Fukunaga discloses a processor element being set as the master (Col. 14, lines 38-45), thereby being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section and the remaining processors being set to a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section and would entail including a mode control section that sets one of the first operations mode and the second operation mode.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 5/20/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Summary of Applicant's Argument: Fukunaga does not disclose or suggest an image processing apparatus wherein each of the image processing sections are capable of being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section and a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section. Fukunaga discloses that the processor elements 1004-i are the same. The only difference between the master and the other processor elements is that the master outputs the synchronization signal.

Examiner's Response: Fukunaga discloses a processor element being set as the master (Col. 14, lines 38-45), thereby being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section and the remaining processors being set to a second

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operation mode allowing only reception from the control section. Master/slave is a well-known model for communication protocol. In a master/slave relationship it is inherent that the slave has reception only. Therefore, Fukunaga discloses each of the image processing sections capable of being set to one of a first operation mode allowing data communication with the control section, and a second operation mode allowing only reception from the control section where one is set to the first operation mode and the remaining are set to the second operation mode.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virginia M Kibler whose telephone number is (703) 306-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:00 - 5:30 and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (703) 308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Virginia Kibler
Virginia Kibler
07/30/04

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PRIMARY EXAMINER
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